

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #25 **Summer Announcement #21, Districts 1 and 2 Commercial Fishing Periods** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate through July 1 is approximately 1,361,500 fish which is above the median of 956,200 at this date.

Based on the current abundance of summer chum salmon, this announcement opens one commercial salmon fishing period in District 1 and one commercial fishing period in District 2. Based on current assessment, including the current commercial harvest information, the area open to commercial fishing is being limited to only a portion of these districts in which the incidental harvest rate of Chinook salmon is anticipated to be low.

District 1 Subsistence: Subsistence salmon fishing in District 1 is closed. The department will notify fishermen by July 3 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for District 1.

District 1 Commercial (South Mouth Only): Commercial salmon fishing in District 1 will be from 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 2, until 12:00 Midnight Monday, July 2. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon.

Only a portion of District 1 will be open to commercial fishing. The area open to commercial fishing within District 1 will be the South Mouth down river of the lower point of Head of Passes to Chris Point, both locations identified by ADF&G regulatory markers. The area open to commercial fishing includes Black River, Kwiguk Pass, and coastal waters from Chris Point to one mile north of Kwiguk Pass. Middle and North Mouth and passes such as Aproka, north of the mainstem South Mouth are closed to commercial fishing.

District 2 Subsistence: As previously announced, the next scheduled subsistence salmon fishing period for District 2, will be open from 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 2, until 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 3. This will be a 12-hour subsistence fishing period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size.

District 2 Commercial (Downstream of Andreafsky River Mouth): Commercial salmon fishing in District 2 will be from 8:00 p.m. Monday, July 2, until 12:00 Midnight Monday, July 2. This will be a 4-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to target summer chum salmon. This commercial fishing period will coincide with the first 4 hours of the next District 2 subsistence salmon fishing period.

Only a portion of District 2 will be open to commercial fishing. The area open to commercial fishing within District 2 will be down river from the confluence of the Andreafsky and Yukon Rivers, marked by the downstream ADF&G regulatory marker, to the District 1 and 2 boundary line at the Anuk River.

No Chinook salmon can be sold in any summer chum commercial openings when subsistence fishing has been restricted. Therefore, fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.

Fishermen are reminded that all subsistence caught Chinook salmon must have both tips of the tail fin removed prior to concealing or removing the fish from the fishing grounds from June 1 to July 15.

Fishermen in Districts 1 and 2 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding changes to the subsistence salmon fishing schedules or commercial fishing periods in these districts.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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